



Friday
January 21,
2011

Weekly Views

Due to the extensive amount of continual snowfall in the South Bend area, most of the city's fire hydrants are completely covered with snow. In an effort to uncover these fire hydrants so that the fire department can readily access them in case of fire, the Mayor's office has asked the South Bend Community Re-entry Center (SBCRC) to assist. SBCRC offenders began the process of digging out fire hydrants on the south side of the city. Over 100 hydrants have been cleared, but an additional 50 remain. SBCRC hopes to continue this effort in the coming days until all hydrants in the city are completely cleared.

New Castle Correctional Facility Assistant Superintendent Craig Hanks received the 2010 statewide award for "Heroes for Recovery" from the Mental Health America of Indiana.

The Indiana Blood Center conducted a blood drive at the Pendleton Correctional Facility, collecting 15 units of blood. Staff donors were provided a choice of an Indianapolis Colts Shirt or a football autographed by Colts player Melvin Bullitt in appreciation for their participation.

Wabash Valley Lieutenant Michael Voigtschild has been promoted to Captain at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. An official pinning ceremony took place during the facility's Staff Recall. Captain Voigtschild is a nearly 13-year veteran at the maximum security facility and is a graduate of the Experienced and Emerging Leadership Program. Acting Major Tim Riggle and Assistant Superintendent Dick Brown did the pinning honors for the facility's newest Custody Supervisor.

Kojak Fuller, former Mr. Basketball, paid a visit to the Future Soldier Program at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. Mr. Fuller gave the students a background history of his life and glory years playing basketball for Anderson High School. He advised the students on how bad choices changed his life, causing him to become a teenage father and eventually locked up in prison on drug charges. Mr. Fuller had the students' full attention as he showed them what the right choices could bring if they choose to make them. He also spoke about the changes that have taken place in his own life and acted out scenerios with the students on how to greet, speak, and give a firm hand shake to people they meet. The students were very appreciative of what Mr. Fuller shared with them and gave him a standing ovation.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS) of Vigo County visited the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, to pick up two custom made PLUS quilts. The quilts will help raise funds during their annual BBBS Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser that takes place in late March. Assistant Superintendent Dick Brown has been a Big Brother with the organization since 2007 and suggested the project to help the over 200 children involved with BBBS.

Putnamville Correctional Facility's PLUS dorm donated \$500 to sponsor the Pinewood Derby race for the Cloverdale Cub Scout Pack 93 which was held at the Cloverdale Middle School. The boys are given an official Pinewood Derby kit. The scouts design, cut, and shape the wood block into a car of their liking. Then they add paint, wheels, and weights to get their cars ready for the race. Trophies are given to the winners.

Marion Thatcher, Correctional Team Manager at the Indiana State Prison, has earned his bachelor's degree in business management. Mr. Thatcher completed his degree after completing an externship at the Indiana State Prison. He seeks to use his degree to advance his career within the Department.

The Indiana State Prison held a blood drive with the American Red Cross. 22 staff members gave the gift of donated blood.

PEN Products' Lisa Williams and Doug Evans were two of fifteen corrections professionals selected to take part in the first Offender Employment Retention Specialist (OERS) training in Aurora, Colorado. At the training, the group of fifteen evaluated the new OERS curriculum which was developed through the National Institute of Corrections.

Westville's Therapeutic Community hosted its third family seminar. The series of family seminars, funded through a Justice Assistance Grant, addresses various topics related to re-entry. The day long seminar included workshops, written exercises, discussions and a luncheon provided by the facility's culinary arts vocational program.

The Native American Circle, an offender group at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF), hosted a memorial service in honor of the Lakota Sioux people who lost their lives at Wounded Knee, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota in December 1890. Residents and their guests participated in a smudging ceremony and feasted on a traditional meal of fry-bread, beans, squash, beef stew, and maize.

Five staff members from New Castle Correctional Facility enjoyed "Lunch with the Chamber of Commerce."